

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 02779 251827Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 HEW-04 DHA-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 DODE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 /075 W

-----069524 260022Z /64

R 251545Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4532

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2779

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ECON, ELAB, UV

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 2723 (NOTAL)

1. LT COL SOME, MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND SECURITY, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON JULY 22 THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN UPPER VOLTA. REFERRING TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S MEETING WITH THE CEREAL MERCHANTS ON JULY 19, SOME SAID THAT HE HAD URGED THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE A TOUGH POSITION WITH THE MERCHANTS BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN OVERRULED BY OTHER MINISTERS. THE RESULT WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY WEAKENED AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF DISCONTENT AMONG THE MASSES OVER FOOD PRICES AND THE SHORTAGE OF CEREALS.

2. TURNING TO THE RECENT STRIKE AT THE OUAGADOUGOU AIRPORT, SOME SAID THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN SETTLED AND THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OUAGAD 02779 251827Z

THERE WAS TALK NOW OF A GENERAL STRIKE BY ALL FOUR TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. IF THE TRADE UNIONS GAVE THE REQUIRED 15 DAYS NOTICE TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR A GENERAL STRIKE, THERE WAS NOTHING THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND SECURITY COULD DO ABOUT IT, AND IF THE PURPOSE OF THE STRIKE WAS TO PROTEST AGAINST FOOD PRICES AND THE SHORTAGE OF CEREALS, IT

WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE VERY SUCCESSFUL. THIS WOULD FURTHER WEAKEN THE GOVERNMENT. THE FACT THAT THE 1977 PLANTING SEASON HAD STARTED SO BADLY BECAUSE OF POOR RAINS SUGGESTED THAT THE HARVEST THIS YEAR WOULD BE EVEN SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR WHICH WOULD LEAD TO FURTHER DISCONTENT. SOME CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE TO CIVILIAN RULE, AND HE COMPARED THE PRESENT SITUATION TO THAT PREVAILING IN 1966 WHEN PRESIDENT YAMEOGO WAS OVERTHROWN AND REPLACED BY THE MILITARY REGIME OF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA.

3. COMMENT: LT COL SOME IS A TOUGH, FORCEFUL SOLDIER WHO NORMALLY EXUDES OPTIMISM AND SELF-CONFIDENCE. THAT HE SHOULD BE WILLING TO EXPRESS HIMSELF IN SUCH PESSIMISTIC TERMS INDICATES THAT THE SITUATION IS INDEED SERIOUS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HIGH FOOD PRICES, GEREAL SHORTAGES, POOR PROSPECTS FOR THE 1977 HARVEST, COUPLED WITH A LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARDS A RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE, HAVE CREATED A CLIMATE OF DISCONTENT WHICH THE TRADE UNIONS AND OPPOSITION POLITICANS ARE LIKELY TO EXPLOIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. GRAHAM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OUAGAD02779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770265-0333
Format: TEL
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770723/aaaaatgk.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e7c78264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OUAGADOUGOU 2723
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1760005
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR
TAGS: PINT, ECON, ELAB, UV, (SOME, YORYAN GABRIAL), (LAMIZANA, ABOUBACAR SANGOULE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7c78264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009